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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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2 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Post Mortem on NIE 11-6-54: Soviet Capabilities and Probable Programs in Guided Missiles

- 1. Attached are the findings of the post mortem on NIE 11-6-54, "Soviet Capabilities and Probable Programs in Guided Missiles", dated 5 October 1954.
- 2. This text was reviewed by the IAC representatives on 2 February.
- 3. This paper will be put on the agenda of the IAC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 8 February, at 10:45, for noting.

Jan h. Borel

PAUL A. BOREL
Deputy Assistant Director
National Estimates

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

2 February 1955

SUBJECT: POST-MORTEM ON NIE 11-6-54: SOVIET CAPABILITIES
AND PROBABLE PROGRAMS IN GUIDED MISSILES

FINDINGS

1. The preparation of NIE 11-6-54, during the course of which an intensive effort was made to exploit every possible source of evidence, revealed serious gaps in our intelligence in this important field. In view of our conclusion that the US and its allies face a growing Soviet guided missile threat, including eventually an entirely new type of threat from intercontinental ballistic missiles, the lack of up-to-date intelligence is of critical significance to the intelligence community.

KEY INTELLIGENCE GAPS

2. Major Scientific and Technical Gaps. Although we have available conclusive evidence of the great postwar Soviet interest in guided missiles and numerous indications that the USSR has a large and active research and development program, we have no

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firm intelligence on what particular missiles the USSR may presently be developing or may now have in operational use. Almost all of our intelligence on specific missile development work concerns German projects in the USSR and even then is at least a few years old. We also need more up-to-date intelligence on Soviet research and development facilities and personalities connected with missile activities to permit us to determine more accurately the extent of the Soviet program.

3. Major Economic Gaps. In this field the major gap is our lack of any specific intelligence as to Soviet missile production. We have no evidence beyond the reported Soviet production of a few hundred V-1's and V-2's in 1947-1949. Our economic analysis also revealed the need for better data on Soviet prices and costs, and on Soviet production and consumption patterns in the key fields of electronics and precision mechanisms, and special fuels, where important bottlenecks are believed to exist.

INADEQUACY OF PRESENT INTELLIGENCE EFFORT

4. The basic reason for our lack of intelligence on the Soviet guided missile program is the inadequate collection effort

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presently being devoted to this field. Although the intelli-	
gence community has increased its effort	25
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devoted specifically to the collection and analysis of informa-	
tion regarding guided missiles. There continues to be an urgent	
requirement for increased intelligence collection relating speci-	
fically to types and numbers of guided missiles being developed,	
tested, and/or produced.	
5. Guided missile intelligence has received an insuffi-	
ciently high priority effort in the past. The IAC has recognized	
this problem by placing GM intelligence in the highest priority	
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6. There also continues to be a need for effective co-	
ordination of effort in all aspects of CM intelligence.	
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